

Home Learning Statements for Years 12 and 13

- Sixth formers are given regular home learning on a weekly basis, but this may not be spread out evenly so time management is important.
- The home learning may take several forms:
research on the Internet or in Libraries;
written notes / formal essays;
preparation for a formal (oral) presentation to a group, etc.
- Coursework is a vital component of many subjects and deadlines must be adhered to. Again, time management is essential to balance these deadlines between subjects. However, with the new specifications for AS introduced in 2008, very few subjects still have a coursework element.
- Background reading and research is taken for granted and is essential for success in KS5.
- An average of 2-3 hours home learning per day is the expectation for AS and A2 subject study.

Business Studies:

In Year 12 Business Studies students will be expected to complete the following out of class work:

- Read and analyse the business news using the recommended sources provided at the start of the year.
- Review and index their notes after each lesson.
- Complete case study based questions to reinforce learning and to develop the higher level evaluation and analysis examination skills.
- Written work will be approximately two hours per week.

In Year 13 Business Studies students will be expected to complete the following out of class work:

- Review and index their notes after each lesson and in addition to substantial background reading.

Either:

- a. Complete case study based questions amounting to approximately 2 hours per week focusing on strategic and evaluation skills.

Or:

b. Spend approximately 2 hours per week researching and writing a report for the optional coursework module of the A2 course.

English:

Pupils studying AS/A2 English Literature should spend approximately 2 hours per week on this subject.

This could involve background reading, annotation of a piece of text, preparation for feedback to the rest of the group. This time should also be used for improving vocabulary, writing up notes - as the lessons are mainly discussion, and planning and drafting coursework - 1 piece at each of AS/A2.

Timed essays will also be set at appropriate times as examination practice and it is vital that students keep to these time limits in order to steadily improve their written skills.

Mathematics:

KS5 students will receive a substantial number of individual home learning sessions; which could last up to or be in excess of 1 hour. They will generally take the form of practice questions from a textbook issued at the beginning of the academic year, or worksheets.

Science: Biology, Physics and Chemistry

Pupils studying AS and A2 Sciences should expect to spend up to approximately 2 hours a week, per subject on home learning. Tasks set will include pre-reading for certain topics; essay writing; follow-up work to laboratory based practicals; past examination papers; revision work for module tests and synoptic

papers: preparation of presentations to be given to the rest of the group and follow up work related to field trips.

Humanities: RE, Sociology, Geography and History

As a rule of thumb we would expect students to do the same amount of home learning as time spent in lessons. In other words we believe that each subject should involve students in about 9 hours of home learning per fortnight. Home learning might include essays, note-taking, research, preparation for seminars and presentations. Serious students will ensure that, as part of their studies at home, they engage in regular background reading.

Art

AS and A2 have 1 unit of coursework each, plus an "exam unit". Both units require home learning and extensive personal research. Home learning is set individually to the student. We would expect students to be working for at least 2 hours per week independently at home. Students should also be aware that they can arrange time to work in the art rooms during their free periods as deadlines approach.

Film Studies

AS Year

The tasks will vary over the year both in content and depth. Initially the tasks will be research into aspects of film making and the industry, coupled with detailed analyses of short sequences or stills. Essays and coursework will begin by the first half term. Three pieces of coursework are required which normally take several draft forms before completion. Practice exam questions and essays will normally be set at least fortnightly in the Spring and Summer Terms.

Students are also expected to keep abreast of developments and key releases over the year by regularly reading Film supplements in daily newspapers, (The Guardian and Times are particularly good), plus the monthly magazines, (Sight and Sound and Empire). This prepares them for their FS2 exam.

A2 Year

Two pieces of coursework are required. The practical piece, (film making, screenplay writing or journalism), require substantial effort in the Spring Term. Students also undertake a research project. Regular essays will be set in preparation for two exams to be taken in January and June.

Drama

It is expected that both AS and A2 level students keep a written notebook recording the exploration undertaken in each lesson. Students can also use the same notebooks to record details of any inspiration that informs their performance work.

Further to this requirement, students will have to carry out various forms of written work. The reading of Play texts is standard and they should also participate in the independent research of Theatre and Practitioners to broaden their knowledge of the subject. It is imperative that students practise their performance work, specifically leading up to both examination and coursework deadlines, which will be set at varying intervals throughout the academic year.

Technology: Product Design

AS and A2 students are consistently developing their knowledge and understanding through both the practical coursework and theoretical aspects of the course. Research, note taking and practical product testing forms an important element of the course. In addition, students should be making use of the specialised equipment and facilities available within the Technology department during their designated study periods in school.

Health and Social Care

AS and A2 students will be working on a variety of coursework portfolios and preparing for formal end of course examinations. Therefore, home learning will consist of research, practical making activities, presentations, written reports, note-making, reading and revision activities. Students should expect to develop their understanding of lesson activities through home learning, which should be completed in approximately 2-3 hours each week.

Psychology

- AS and A2 students no longer have to complete coursework, (as from September 2008). It is therefore essential that notes are revised and students read around the subject regularly throughout the course in preparation for exams in January and June. There is an expectation that students will be familiar with the 'Psychology Review' and complete internet research relating to topics studied.
- Alongside this, home learning will be set on a weekly basis and may include reading, note-making, revision work using past examination papers or recording practical investigations. All students must focus on thoroughly learning methods of research as each unit's mark scheme includes this aspect of Psychology. This will take approximately 2-3 hours per week of study time.

Communication

Pupils studying AS/A2 Communication Studies should spend at least 2 hours per week on the subject. This could include formally set pieces of work, a wide reading and appreciation of the subject (particularly mass media) as well as preparation for group work within class.

This period of home learning should also include the planning, drafting and finalising of coursework - a formal presentation at AS and project at A2.

Exam preparation and timed essays will also be set periodically to familiarise pupils with what is required of them.

Physical Education

The department sets home learning to support and challenge the students. Throughout the year the pupils will be required to complete a variety of tasks related to the theoretical aspects of the subject. The work should take 2 -3 hours per week, which is an average estimate. The format of the home learning will include internet research, prospective examination questions and specific assignments. Revision for class tests and year examinations will also be an integral part of home learning throughout the year.

Travel and Tourism

In Year 13 Travel & Tourism students will be expected to complete the following out of class work:

- Read, analyse and make links between articles in the business or trade press twice per week.
- Review and index their notes after each lesson.
- Either:
 - a. Complete case study based questions amounting to approximately 2 hours per week.Or:
 - b. Spend approximately 2 hours per week researching and writing assignments for the coursework modules of their course.

Information Technology

Year 12 and 13 ICT students should be spending approximately 3 hours per week on home learning. This home learning will take several forms such as:

- coursework research and planning
- developing solutions, for which access to a computer is required
- preparing answers to pre - release examination material.
- completing past examination papers

Access to a computer is important for KS5 ICT home learning. If an individual does not have access at home, they are welcome to use the school's equipment after school by arrangement with the Head of ICT.